Ranikhet and Parmarthniketan at Rishikesh. Such facilities have also been proposed at Kausani and Uttarkashi in the current financial year.

Controlling prices of sugar

*71. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced some changes in the commodity release mechanism from May 1, 2004 with regard to sugar pricing policy;

(b) whether the price of sugar which was being sold at Rs. 1115 per qunital, has risen by over Rs. 200 to Rs. 1321 per qunital in the past eight days;

(c) if so, what were other steps taken by Government to check the rise in prices of sugar; and

(d) the effect of the steps taken to control the prices of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) For the month of May, 2004, the Government had announced non-levy sugar quota of 16 lakh M.Ts which was more by 2.00 lakh M.Ts as compared to the quota released for April, 2004. The Government also stipulated that 50% of the allotted quota to each mill should be delivered/dispatched in each fortnight.

The ex-factory price of non-levy sugar in major States ranged between Rs. 1465-1645 per qunital in the first fortnight and between Rs. 1430-1645 per qunital in the second fortnight of May, 2004.

Checking the steel prices

*72. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the plans Government have to achieve the set targeted capacity of 60 million tonnes by 2007 from the current level of 35 million tonnes.

(b) whether it is a fact that steel companies have hiked prices of steel by Rs. 1600/- per tonne in January, 2004;